Amendments to the Specification:

The paragraph starting at page 9, line 2, is amended and now reads as follows:

-- FIG. 1 shows an intake system of a portable handheld work apparatus (not shown) such as a chain saw, brushcutter, ~~suction/blow~~ suction/blower apparatus or the like. The intake system shown is for preparing combustion air for an internal combustion engine (not shown) for driving a portable handheld work apparatus. The combustion air is shown by arrow 1. The intake system includes a carburetor 2, an air filter 3 connected upstream of the carburetor 2 and a filter case 4 surrounding the air filter 3 from the outside. A swing gap 32 is formed between the carburetor 2, which is rigidly mounted on the work apparatus, and the elastically mounted engine. An elastic sleeve 31 is provided to bridge the swing gap 32 and connect the carburetor 2 to the engine. --

The paragraph starting at page 11, line 4, is amended and now reads as follows:

-- The air filter case 4 includes a defined ventilation opening 8 for connecting the inner space 9 to the ambient air. A pressure equalization, which pulsates approximately in the direction of the double arrow 19, can take place in the ventilation opening 8 to compensate for pressure fluctuations in the interior space 9. The flow cross section of the ventilation opening 8 is so designed that the ~~air flows~~ airflows through the inlet opening 24, the intake opening 18 of the carburetor 2 and the ventilation opening 8 are compensated at least at rated rpm, especially in a wide rpm

range of the engine so that a uniform pressure level adjusts in the interior space 9 of the filter case 4. The uniform pressure level makes possible a good compensation of the influence of the air filter contamination on the mixture formation because a pressure is present at the compensation connection 37 which is influenced only by the contamination of the air filter. The tangential inflow of the combustion air 1 into the filter case 4 makes possible the continuous further conduction of the combustion air 1 to the ventilation opening 8. The combustion air 1 flows along the surface of the air filter 3. In this way, the principle of transverse flow filtration is realized and the dust content, which is present in the inner space 9, is further reduced. --